coating is applied become the light transmitting sections 47A to 47C, and the portions to which the total reflection coating is applied become the light shielding sections 49A to 49C.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 - 6, 8 and 10 have been amended so as to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A narrow band ultraviolet laser device comprising light shielding elements having

light transmitting sections each constituted by an opening for transmitting laser light, and

light shielding sections that surround said light transmitting sections, remove undesired laser light from an optical path and shape the laser light into a predetermined form,

wherein heating means for heating said light transmitting sections are included in the vicinity of said light shielding elements.

2. (Amended) The narrow band ultraviolet laser device according to Claim 1,

wherein said heating means also performs heating in a state in which the laser light is not oscillated.

3. (Amended) The narrow band ultraviolet laser device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, further comprising:

a laser controller for controlling laser oscillation; and

temperature measuring devices for measuring temperature of gases inside said light transmitting sections,

wherein said temperature measuring devices give information regarding said temperature of the gases to said laser controller, and

wherein said laser controller starts laser oscillation based on said information.

4. (Amended) A narrow band ultraviolet laser device comprising light shielding elements having

light transmitting sections for transmitting laser light, and light shielding sections that surround said light transmitting sections, remove undesired laser light from an optical path and shape the laser light into a predetermined form,

wherein spraying means for spraying an inert gas is included in the vicinity of said light shielding elements.

5. (Amended) A narrow band ultraviolet laser device comprising light shielding elements having

light transmitting sections for transmitting laser light, and

light shielding sections that surround said light transmitting sections, remove undesired laser

light from an optical path and shape the laser light into a predetermined form,

wherein said light shielding sections are formed of a material including at least any one of aluminum, aluminum alloy and copper.

6. (Amended) A narrow band ultraviolet laser device comprising light shielding elements having light transmitting sections for transmitting laser light, and

light shielding sections that surround said light transmitting sections, remove undesired laser light from an optical path and shape the laser light into a predetermined form,

wherein said light shielding sections are formed of a material which transmits the laser light, and have a function of removing the undesired light from the optical path.

7. (Amended) The narrow band ultraviolet laser device according to Claim 6,

wherein said removing function is performed by total reflection coating formed on surfaces of said light shielding sections.

8. (Amended) A narrow band ultraviolet laser device comprising light shielding elements for removing undesired laser light from an optical path and shaping laser light into a predetermined form, and

light transmitting sections formed by said light shielding elements, for transmitting the laser light,

wherein said light shielding elements are formed of a material which transmits the laser light,

and have a function of refracting the laser light to remove the undesired laser light from the optical path.

10. (Amended) A narrow band ultraviolet laser device comprising light shielding elements having

light transmitting sections for transmitting laser light, and light shielding sections that surround said light transmitting sections, remove undesired laser light from an optical path and shape the laser light into a predetermined form,

wherein said light transmitting sections are formed of a solid which transmits the laser light.

REMARKS

As indicated above, claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The specification and claims 1 - 6, 8 and 10 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 24, 2002.